

# Recruiting Announcement

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

SOUTHWESTERN POWER ADMINISTRATION

Announcement No.: SWR-2003-9

Opening Date: 05-14-2003

Closing Date: 06-04-2003

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**POSITION:** **ELECTRONICS TECHNICIAN, GS-856-12**  
**Salary Range of GS-12: \$56,463 - \$73,403**

**ORGANIZATION LOCATION:** Southwestern Power Administration  
Office of Corporate Operations  
Division of Scheduling and Operations

**DUTY LOCATION:** Springfield, Missouri

**PROMOTION POTENTIAL:** None

**SUPERVISOR/MANAGER PROBATION:** No

**REPORT OF FINANCIAL INTEREST:** No

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**WHO MAY APPLY:** All U.S. citizens may apply. No previous Federal employment is required. All applicants will receive consideration for appointment without regard to race, religion, color, national origin, sex, political affiliation, age, or any other nonmerit factor. (Federal candidates may receive dual consideration for this vacancy by also making application under Merit Promotion Vacancy Announcement, SW-2003-06, found at either <http://www.usajobs.opm.gov> or <http://www.swpa.gov/careers.htm>.)

**Placement Assistance Programs:** Individuals entitled to priority consideration under the Interagency Career Transition Assistance Program (ICTAP) and/or Department of Energy's Career Transition Assistance Program **MUST** submit the documentation listed below with their application package:

- A. RIF separation notice; a letter from OPM or your agency documenting your priority consideration status;
- B. Current (last) performance appraisal rating of record (must be successful or equivalent);
- C. Narrative statement (GS positions), or Supplemental Qualifications Statement (WB positions), addressing the knowledge, skills, and ability factors listed under Qualification Requirements in this announcement; and
- D. Documentation showing the promotion potential of the position from which you may be or have been separated. (Applicants are eligible for consideration only for vacancies which have no higher promotion potential.)

Eligible employees must be determined to be well qualified for this position. Well qualified means an eligible employee possesses the knowledge, skills, and abilities which clearly exceed the minimum qualification requirements for the position.

**NOTE:** Certain relocation expenses will be paid depending upon the availability of funds and at the discretion of management.

**NOTE:** Although not on standby status, the candidate selected is subject to call at anytime to perform emergency work and is encouraged to establish permanent residence within a one-hour commuting distance of the duty station.

**REASONABLE ACCOMMODATIONS:** This agency provides reasonable accommodations to applicants with disabilities. If you need a reasonable accommodation for any part of the application and hiring process, please notify this agency. The decision on granting reasonable accommodation will be on a case-by-case basis.

**Veterans= Preference:** The Veterans=Preference Act of 1944, as amended, provides veterans who are disabled or who served on active duty in the Armed Forces during certain specified time periods or in military campaigns preference over others in hiring from competitive lists of

eligibles. A veteran must have been separated from active duty in the Armed Forces with an honorable or general discharge. As defined by 5 U.S.C. 2101(2), **Armed Forces** means the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard. When applying for Federal jobs, eligible veterans should claim preference on their application or resume and include a copy of their DD-214. For more information about this and other veterans issues, refer to the [VetGuide](#), published by the Office of Personnel Management, at <http://www.opm.gov>.

**NOTE:** The Defense Authorization Act of November 18, 1997, extended veterans' preference to persons who served on active duty during the Gulf War from August 2, 1990, through January 2, 1992. The law grants preference to persons otherwise eligible and who served on active duty during the period, regardless of where the person served or for how long. The law also authorized the Secretary of each military department to award the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal for service in Bosnia during the period November 20, 1995, to a date to be determined. The award of the Medal is qualifying for veterans' preference. More information on veterans' preference is available in the [VetGuide](#) that may be found on the U.S. Office of Personnel Management web site at <http://www.opm.gov>.

**PROBATIONARY PERIOD:** If the applicant chosen for this position is hired from an external search, that individual must serve a probationary period of the first 12 months of employment. Probationary periods are utilized to determine the employee's fitness (work performance and conduct) for continued employment.

**DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:** The purpose of this position is to provide senior level technical expertise and assistance in the field of maintenance, construction, and modification of Southwestern's communications, supervisory control, and generation control facilities. Serves as a senior technician and primary contact point (on a rotational basis) for either the SCADA, PBX, microwave, or fiber optics maintenance technology area for Southwestern and as an alternate primary contact of other technologies listed above. As primary contact, the senior technician regularly checks the monitoring equipment located at the headquarters maintenance center for the technology assigned and provides the necessary maintenance information to other technicians. The senior technician performs hands on technical functions and provides advice and assistance to other technicians. Applies state-of-the-art knowledge of electronic theory, circuits, testing, and related practical knowledge of math and physical sciences to layout, build, test, and troubleshoot operational and developmental equipment. Consults with electronic engineers regarding layout and installation of new equipment and systems or prototype modeling. Recommends changes in circuitry or installation specifications. Performs tests to determine performance and reliability of equipment. Analyzes and interprets test data and makes adjustments or calibrates, aligns, and/or modifies circuitry and/or components as needed. Writes technical reports, and develops charts, graphs, and schematics to describe and illustrate system operations, malfunctions, or deviation from design specifications and provides them to professional engineers. Leads and instructs craftspersons and lower graded technicians as required. Plans, organizes, directs, and participates in complete installation, testing, troubleshooting, and maintenance of complex electronics systems which include VHF/UHF radio systems, analog and digital microwave systems, power system relays, local (LAN) and wide (WAN)- area networks, intelligent electronic devices, telephone systems, digital transmitters and receivers, system control and data acquisition (SCADA) equipment, telemetering, analog and digital fiber optic systems. Develops schedules and performs scheduled and unscheduled maintenance on Southwestern's electronic systems and components. Performs development work and conducts research on complex electronic systems by the application of previously established experimental and empirical methods and techniques. Performs acceptance and functional tests on new electronic facilities. Makes necessary changes in wiring or adjustments to correct deficiencies. Provides technical information of an engineering nature and gathers engineering data required for the solution of problems. Works with one or more electricians or mechanics who assist during installation and maintenance of equipment for which the incumbent is responsible. Reviews A&E consultant-, Southwestern-, or vendor-supplied specifications relative to additions and modifications to communications and control systems for accuracy and sufficiency. Communicates with other divisions to analyze and repair system problems. Works closely with customers on joint telemetering, supervisory, and voice communication problems. Instructs customers=employees in regard to Southwestern's telecommunication and power system clearance procedures. Follows safety procedures in performing all maintenance and construction activities.

**PHYSICAL DEMANDS:** The work requires some physical exertion, such as periods of standing, walking over rough, uneven, or rocky surfaces, recurring bending, crouching, stooping, stretching, reaching, or similar activities; recurrent lifting of moderately heavy items such as oscilloscopes, spectrum analyzers, and various enclosures. The work may require performance within restricted space of electronic enclosures, eye strain from working with small components, and travel fatigue due to long distance and rough access roads to remote substations and radio stations. Travel on rough terrain, high heat and humidity, and freezing rain and snow may also cause painful physical discomfort.

**WORK ENVIRONMENT:** The work is performed inside and outside at local and remote substations, switch yards, and radio stations. Exposure to hazards exist when working near high voltage power equipment and test equipment. At remote sites, exposure to vermin such as spiders, snakes, scorpions and wasps could be a deadly hazard. Normal working hours are expected; however, hours may be subject to emergency call-out at all times. Technician is required to be on frequent overnight travel.

**QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:** The qualification requirements are specifically addressed by the Office of Personnel Management's Qualifications Standards for General Schedule Positions, GS-856 series, in conjunction with the Group Coverage Qualification Standard for Technical and Medical Support Positions. Applicants should have at least one year *specialized experience equivalent to at least a GS-11 level*.

*Specialized experience* is experience that equipped the applicant with the particular knowledge, skills, and abilities (KSAs) to perform successfully the duties of the position, and that is typically in or related to the work of the position to be filled. *Examples* of qualifying experience include: (1) Work as a technician, instructor, inspector, or mechanic (civilian or military) that showed progression in theoretical and practical knowledge of electronic theory, and of the characteristics, function, operation, and capabilities of a variety of types of electronic equipment. This experience must have included the use of schematic diagrams, a variety of test equipment, and the application of appropriate electronic formulas involved in such duties as testing, troubleshooting, modifying, designing, calibrating, installing, maintaining, repairing, constructing, developing, and instructing on electronic equipment, or similar functions. (2) Experience in developing policies, standards, and procedures for maintenance, installation, or similar functions, provided the work clearly shows that the applicant applied a specialized knowledge of the theories and principles of a variety of electronic systems or equipment.

**NOTE:** Status applicants must meet qualification and time-after-competitive-appointment requirements within 30 days of the closing date of this announcement.

**BASIS OF EVALUATION:** Applicants who meet the qualification requirements will be rated on the basis of relevant experience, education, related volunteer experience, training, job-related awards, and the ranking factors listed below. **To receive proper consideration, ALL applicants should address the ranking factors listed below on a supplemental sheet and include this as a part of their application package.** The ranking factors are:

1. Skill in the application of electronic theories and principles involved in the installation, maintenance, construction, modification, troubleshooting, and repair of complex electronic.
2. Knowledge of power system control and data acquisition schemes, safe high-voltage switching and clearance procedures, and hazards present in high-voltage substations.
3. Skill in the use of equipment associated with the installation, maintenance, construction, modification, troubleshooting, and repair of sophisticated electronic systems, including personal computer, selective volt meter, transmission impairment measurement set, oscillator, oscilloscope, signal generator, optical time domain reflectometer, fiber optic cable splicer, standing wave ratio meter, spectrum analyzer, and microwave link analyzer.
4. Ability to independently plan, organize, and execute several projects involved in the development of complex electronic systems which require solutions to design and operation problems.
5. Knowledge of established project management principles and ability to carry out the continued requirements management and configuration management of completed projects.
6. Ability to serve as the senior technician/specialist and system expert/analysis and area authority contact for supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA), private broadcast exchange (PBX), analog and digital microwave system, and fiber optic network.
7. Authoritative knowledge of local (LAN) and wide-area (WAN) networks, intelligent electronic devices (IED), safe high-voltage switching and clearance procedures, and hazards present in high-voltage substations.

**SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS/CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT:**

- A. Applicants must be citizens of the United States (or owe allegiance to the United States).
- B. Applicants must be at least 16 years of age to apply for this vacancy.
- C. Public Law 103-356 requires direct deposit of Federal wage, salary, and retirement payments by electronic funds transfer from recipients who begin receiving such payments on or after January 1, 1995.
- D. The following statements are applicable:
  - \$ Subject to a 12-month probationary period
  - \$ Subject to drug test prior to appointment and future random, unannounced drug testing if employed
  - \$ Subject to frequent travel
  - \$ Requires a valid driver's license
  - \$ Subject to a background investigation

**HOW TO APPLY:** Candidates may submit a resume, curriculum vitae, other documents such as an optional Federal employment application, or general employment application form.

- A. Your application must contain the information described in the Office of Personnel Management pamphlet, "Applying for a Federal Job."
- B. Additional information/completed forms should be submitted, if applicable:
  - \$ If former Federal employee, SF-50, "Notification of Personnel Action," which indicates proof of competitive status from prior Federal service.
  - \$ If an employee of another Federal agency, SF-50 as proof of competitive status.
  - \$ Supplemental address of ranking factors.
  - \$ Veterans claiming preference, copy of ALL DD-214s and, if applicable, verification of disability dated within the preceding year. Submission of the attached Applicant Disability, Race/National Origin and Sex Identification form is voluntary. The form will be detached from your application package upon receipt.

Failure to submit requested information/documents may result in non-consideration or a lower rating in the evaluation process.

Submit complete application package to:

**Southwestern Power Administration  
Attn: Lynn King, S-5620  
One West Third Street  
Tulsa, OK 74103**

Applications received in the mail must be postmarked on or before the closing date and received in the Human Resources Management office within five (5) working days after the closing date of the vacancy announcement. Requests for extension of the deadline for postmarking application packets (closing date of this Recruiting Announcement) may be authorized provided that such request is submitted to Lynn King by 4:00 p.m. CST of the closing date. Do not send original documents; applications will not be returned.

**Applications mailed in Government-franked envelopes or faxed using government fax machines will NOT be accepted.**

**CONTACT:** For further information, you may contact Lynn King at (918) 595-6617 or at <http://www.lynn.king@swpa.gov>. During the time period of May 14-27, contact Colin Kelley at (918) 595-6615.

THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER.

A HARASSMENT FREE WORK ENVIRONMENT IS  
SOUTHWESTERN'S POLICY.

*Information about Springfield, Missouri:* Missouri's third largest city is within a 500-mile radius of nearly 50 percent of the U.S. population. Springfield is within a 100-mile radius of more than 7,500 miles of shoreline, along the accessible lakes, floatable streams and rivers. Excellent hunting, camping and fishing are found throughout the area, amidst rolling hills and clear spring-fed streams. One favorite site is Table Rock Lake, noted for its clean, uncrowded shores and hidden inlets. The Branson area, 35 miles south of Springfield, receives national attention as *America's Live Music Show Capital, U.S.A.* Springfield's quality of life is bolstered by a cost of living that rates 6.9 points below the national average at 91 out of 100, according to the American Chamber of Commerce Research Association. Each year, residents and visitors alike get more for their dollar in Springfield. Part of Springfield's uniqueness comes from its climate and four distinctive seasons. Nestled atop the Ozark Mountain Plateau, the city enjoys a relaxed climate with milder seasons than upland plains or prairie sections of the state. Springfield offers an abundance of sunshine, low wind velocity, mild temperatures and favorable humidity. The average annual precipitation for Springfield, MO is 43 inches with 17 inches of snow.

Springfield's climate and low cost of living have helped give rise to the city's population. According to the City of Springfield Planning and Development Departments, as of December 31, 1999, the population within the city limits of Springfield was 156,192. The estimated MSA (metropolitan statistical area) population is 308,322. Springfield is the third largest city in the state of Missouri. Springfield provides the area's most extensive health care options with six local hospitals. There are more than 700 physicians and surgeons and 150 plus dentists residing in the area. The availability of health care has dramatically increased within the last few years, particularly on South National Avenue - Springfieldians have fondly nicknamed this area the "Medical Mile." Higher education institutes include Southwest Missouri State University, with enrollment of over 18,000 students. Other institutions of higher learning include Baptist Bible College, Central Bible College, Drury University, Evangel University, Assemblies of God Theological Seminary, Rhodes College, Vatterott College, Webster University, Ozarks Technical Community College, St. John's School of Nursing and Lester L. Cox College of Nursing.

**U.S. Department of Energy**  
**APPLICANT DISABILITY, RACE/NATIONAL ORIGIN AND SEX IDENTIFICATION**

(Please read the Instructions and Privacy Act Statement before completing this form)

OMB Burden Disclosure Statement

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 10 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to Office of Information Resources Management Policy, Plans, and Oversight, Records Management Division, HR-422-GTN, Paperwork Reduction Project (1910-0600), U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, DC 20585; and to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), Paperwork Reduction Project (1910-0600), Washington, DC 20503.

PRIVACY ACT STATEMENT

This data is being collected to plan and evaluate the agency's recruitment of persons with disabilities, minorities and women, and to help ensure that agency personnel practices meet the requirements of Federal law and regulation. The data you supply will be used for statistical analysis only. SUBMISSION OF THIS INFORMATION IS VOLUNTARY. Failure to provide this information will have no effect on the processing of your application for Federal employment. Individual personnel selections are not made based on this information.

Authority: Sections 1302, 3301, 3302, 3304 and 7201 of Title 5 of the U.S. Code; Section 2000e of Title 42 U.S. Code; and Section 791 of Title 29 of the U.S. Code.

Solicitation of your Social Security Number (SSN) is authorized by Executive Order 9397 (November 22, 1943), which requires agencies to use the SSN as the means for identifying individuals in personnel information systems. It will be used only for that purpose. Submission of your SSN is voluntary and failure to furnish your SSN on this form will have no effect on your application.

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| Vacancy Announcement Number<br>SW-2003-06                         | Position Title, Series, Grade<br>Electronics Technician, GS-856-12 |
| Name (Last, First, Middle Initial)                                | Social Security Number   |
| Sex <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female |  |

SECTION A. DISABILITY STATUS

A person is disabled if he or she has a physical or mental impairment which substantially limits one or more major life activities. Please read the disability descriptions below and then write the two-digit numeric code in the box above which best describes your disability, if any. If you have more than one disability, choose the one which results in the most substantial limitation.

NOTE: Please place only ONE two-digit code number in the box.

- 05. I do not have a disability.
- 16. Total deafness in both ears, with or without understandable speech.
- 23. Inability to read ordinary size print, not correctable by glasses (can read oversize print or use assisting device).
- 25. Blind in both eyes (no usable vision, may have some light perception).
- 28. Missing one arm or one leg.
- 33. Missing both hands or both arms or both feet or both legs.
- 35. Missing one hand or arm and one foot or leg.
- 64. Partial paralysis of both hands.
- 65. Partial paralysis of both legs, any part, or both arms, any part.
- 67. Partial paralysis of one side of the body, including one arm and one leg.

- 68. Partial paralysis of three or more major parts of the body (arms and legs).
- 71. Complete paralysis of both hands or both arms or both legs.
- 72. Complete paralysis of one arm or one leg.
- 76. Complete paralysis of lower half of body, including legs.
- 77. Complete paralysis of one side of body, including one arm and one leg.
- 78. Complete paralysis of three or more major parts (of body) (arms and legs).
- 82. Convulsive disorder (e.g. epilepsy).
- 90. Mental retardation (a chronic and lifelong condition involving a limited ability to learn, to be educated, and to be trained for useful productive employment as certified by a state vocational rehabilitation agency).
- 91. Mental or emotional illness (a history of treatment for mental or emotional problems).
- 92. Severe distortion of limbs and/or spine (e.g. dwarfism, severe distortion of the back).
- 06. I have a disability, but it is not listed above. Describe: \_\_\_\_\_

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#### SECTION B. RACE/NATIONAL ORIGIN

The categories below provide descriptions of race and national origins. Read the descriptions and then check the box next to the category with which you identify yourself. If you are of mixed race and/or national origin, select the category with which you most closely identify yourself. NOTE: Please mark only ONE box.

- |                                      |  |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| A. American Indian or Alaskan Native | <input type="checkbox"/> A person having origins in any of the original peoples of North America, and who maintains cultural identification through community recognition or tribal affiliation.   |
| B. Asian or Pacific Islander         | <input type="checkbox"/> A person having origins in any of the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, the India subcontinent, or the Pacific Islands. For example: China, India, Japan, Korea, the Philippine Islands, Samoa and Vietnam. |
| C. Black, not of Hispanic origin     | <input type="checkbox"/> A person having origins in any of the black racial groups of Africa. This does not include persons of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central or South American, or other Spanish cultures or origins.                        |
| D. Hispanic                          | <input type="checkbox"/> A person of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central or South American, or other Spanish cultures or origins. This does not include persons of Portuguese culture or origin.   |
| E. White, not of Hispanic origin     | <input type="checkbox"/> A person having origins in any of the original peoples of Europe, North Africa or the Middle East. This does not include persons of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central or South American cultures or origins.            |
| F. Other                             | <input type="checkbox"/> A person not included in the above categories.  |